

REMARKS

The claims in the application remain 1- 21.

Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The present amendment is being made in accordance with a telephone conversation between the undersigned attorney and Supervisory Primary Examiner Thomas B. Will on Wednesday, December 19, 2007. The courtesy extended by Supervisory Primary Examiner Will in discussing the above-identified application is greatly appreciated. Pursuant to the recommendation of Supervisory Primary Examiner Will, the present amendment is being filed by way of a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). Furthermore, pursuant to M.P.E.P. §713.02, a telephone interview is explicitly requested prior to issuance of an Office Action in the RCE.

All Claims 1-16 and 18-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,950,735 to Godbersen in paragraph 2 of the Final Office Action. In this regard, Claims 1 and 21 have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's observation in paragraph 4 of the Final Office Action, namely to recite spring or resilient means 24 is compressed when wedge element 20 is extended, unlike Godbersen where spring 94 automatically biases plunger 76 to extended position shown in Fig. 10 and which must be retracted against biasing of the spring 94 by turning lever arm 92 pinned to a rod 78 connected to the plunger 76 as shown in Figs. 16 and 17 (column 5, lines 35-59). Reference is being made to preferred embodiments of the present invention illustrated in the drawings of the present application.

Concerning the assertion in paragraph 3 of the Final Office Action that elements 92 and 87 in Godbersen allow the wedge element or plunger 76 to remain in retracted position and form a toggle joint, it is respectfully pointed out Figs. 17 and 18 of Godbersen do not teach operation of a toggle joint as shown, e.g., in Figs. 6 and 7 of the present application where pressure is brought to bear by cylinder 25 upon the "knee" between wedge element 20 and spring 24. In this regard, Claim 21 has been further amended to recite the toggle joint 22 is arranged between resilient means 24 and wedge element 20.

The remaining art of record has not been applied against the claims and will not be commented upon further at this time.

Accordingly, in view of the forgoing amendment, accompanying remarks and statements in the Final Office Action, it is respectfully submitted all claims pending herein are in condition for allowance. It is again respectfully requested in accordance with M.P.E.P. §713.02, the undersigned attorney be contacted by the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application to arrange for a telephone interview prior to issuance of an Office Action in the RCE. A petition for an automatic two month extension of time for response under 37 C.F.R §1.136(a) is enclosed in triplicate, together with the requisite petition fee, RCE transmittal papers and RCE filing fee.

Early favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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